

OUUSD BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

January 20, 2021

Present:

Board Members: Angela Colbeth, Danielle Corti, Carol Cottrell, Melissa Gordon, Chelsey Perry

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Marla Ianello, Jean Wheeler, Morgan Moore, Robin Wozny, Linda Metcalf

Others: Bud Haas and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. The Chair welcomed those present and reviewed protocols for a Zoom meeting. The agenda was reviewed, and a finance report was added.
- II. Board Business
 - A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of December 9, 2020. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. Correspondence:
 1. Communication from some Newbury residents with points for discussion for (in)equality, and Budget questions/thoughts for Administration, Board, & Budget Committee Discussion
 2. Communication from a group of Newbury residents with budgetary questions
 - C. Committee Reports
 1. Budget Committee met yesterday. Minutes will be provided and posted on the website. They have reviewed the OESU budget and are recommending level funding or a decrease.
 2. Strategic Plan Committee: emails have been sent to Board members, and questions will be considered next week.
 - D. Danielle recognized and thanked the Board members, as this is School Board Appreciation Week. Board members will be receiving a gift of a free pair of Darn Tuff Socks.
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Bud Haas: Regarding the next annual meeting, House Bill #8, just signed by the Governor, allows towns and districts to delay their annual meeting. He suggested that OUUSD meet on the second Tuesday in May, outside, and not use Australian ballot.
 1. The OESU budget shows over \$30,000 increase in this budget over the last budget. He feels the Early Childhood budget should be going up, not down.
- IV. Information
 - A. Supt. Report: Update on COVID: Gov. Scott has started to talk about having schools more fully open for instruction in April. We are waiting for the Dept. of Health and the Dept. of Education for guidance as to what this will look like for OUUSD. The model we have now meets current health and safety guidelines. Many feel strongly about the importance of being immunized. We are advocating as an educational community for

teachers to get immunized. The State of VT surveillance program is happening on a monthly basis. We will be testing staff next week Wednesday. The last round of testing did not show any cases in the SU.

B. Bruce Williams: We are one school away from having our E-911 systems tested and certified. We can then garner tens of thousands of grant monies to help pay for the cost of certifying these. Jason Mix has been working very hard on this.

1. Corrina Magalhaes, food service director in Bradford, had written and received a grant for a van to use for ancillary food delivery, which has arrived and is now in use. This was at no cost to the district except registration. The van can be used for a host of activities, although it has only two seats.

2. Danielle Corti: The OESU Board Retreat was held last night. There is a recording on the website. A lot of information was provided.

C. Linda Metcalf: We have submitted expenses to be reimbursed by COVID funds.

D. E. Knisley: The next allocation of money from the State will hopefully help pay for literacy in schools, high quality after-school programs, and more intervention supports. That round of funding will carry through 2023 to help pay for Recovery planning.

E. First Draft of OESU Budget.

1. Surplus from '18-'19: \$99,454 from Special Ed. and \$196,792 from the General Fund. These were applied as revenue in the budget. It is expected there will be a surplus from '19-'20, but will wait for the audit.

2. Assessments are down for all systems. Assessments to member districts are down 6.5% overall, with a reduction of \$337,000. Due to an increase of revenue and surplus funds applied as revenue, the overall budget is down about a quarter of a percent year to year. This year's budget is \$20,726 less than last year.

3. Key Points: Central Administration cost decreased \$372,514. Transportation cost increased \$17,132 through our contractor. Early Essential Education decreased \$23,971

4. Special Education increased \$41,847. Contingency reduced from 3% to 2%.

ELL increased \$7,473. Shared Arts Program and Ropes Course Level Funded

5. Salaries estimated at 3%. Health insurance increased 19% based on VEHI.

6. OESU Special Education Budget

A. IEP Process

B. Service Plan

C. Informs OESU Budget for Early Childhood and K-12

7. Danielle Corti: the SU is aware of concerns raised by residents and is actively working on them.

8. Jean Wheeler: Para expenses remain in local budgets. Case managers are covered by the SU budget.

V. OESU Report

A. Danielle Corti: The Retreat last night was very valuable. Slides helped people understand what services we are paying for and the services we have for our students. As a community, we need to pay attention to the information that is coming out. Those documents will be up on the website.

1. Bruce Williams: thought the VSBA Board Training was especially valuable. Symbiotic relationship between the SU and the districts. He recommended that folks watch the Board training section of the meeting.

B. Danielle: Asst. Supt. Bruce Williams will be retiring at the end of this school year. He has volunteered to help with a variety of things. He was thanked and appreciated.

VI. Discussion

A. Committee Members for School/Engagement

1. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Chelsey Perry to appoint Emily Shipman to the Bradford School/Engagement Committee. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

2. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to appoint Kathy Damon and Jamie Marsha to the Oxbow School/Engagement Committee. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

3. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Carol Cottrell, to appoint Emmy Hausman and Catherine Kidder to the Newbury School Engagement Committee. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

4. In addition, Angela Colbeth will be serving on the Bradford School/Engagement Committee, Danielle Corti on the Oxbow School/Engagement Committee, and Carol Cottrell and Timm Judas on the Newbury School/Engagement Committee, along with the School Principal and a faculty member on each committee, as well.

B. Article 3 Amendment

1. The Articles of Agreement Committee met, and there were a few changes suggested following that meeting. It was decided to vote on the Article at the OUUSD Annual meeting. The Articles of Agreement committee will meet again to discuss some slight wording changes

C. Facilities Committee and Communication Committee

1. Melissa Gordon: thinks we should let the committees we now have get off the ground before adding more committees. By consensus, it was decided to leave things as they are for now

VII. Public Comment

A. Danielle Corti congratulated everyone on the passed budget and thanked the teachers for putting out the signs.

B. Bruce Williams: Congratulated the Board for its work in getting the budget passed, and for the perseverance and leadership, which was extraordinary.

VIII. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.